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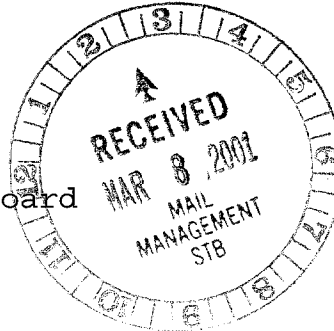
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THOMAS M. AUCHINCLOSS, JR.
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BY HAND



March 8, 2001

Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
Case Control Unit
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.
20423-0001

RE: STB Ex Parte No. 582 (Sub-No. 1) Oral Argument

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of the Jackson County Port Authority (Port of Pascagoula), MS, in connection with the Board's notice of oral argument in the above-captioned rulemaking proceeding. The Port had previously participated in this proceeding, filing initial and reply comments. Pursuant to the Board's decision served February 23, 2001, the Port requests the opportunity to present oral argument on April 5, 2001.

1. Issue(s) to be addressed:

- a. Ports are part of the country's national transportation infrastructure and "essential rail service" must reflect the needs of ports.
- B. The ability of a port to compete for traffic is a function of the presence or absence of effective rail competition.
- c. Structural changes in the railroad industry require a total re-examination of the Board's policies on railroad competition.
- d. It is difficult for parties with unequal bargaining power to negotiate resolutions of disputes absent the prospect of regulatory intervention.

2. Time required:

Not to exceed 10 minutes.

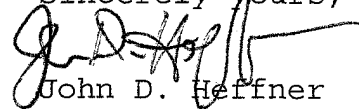
Surface Transportation Board
Office of the Secretary
March 8, 2001
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3. Name of speaker:

John D. Heffner

Please contact me if you have any questions. I am submitting an original and 25 copies of this letter. Please date stamp and return the one additional copy for my files.

Sincerely yours,



John D. Heffner

cc: Mr. Paul Smith